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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **CHECK-
POINT SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD.** [IL/IL];
Diamond Tower, 3a Jabotinsky St., 52520 Ramat Gan (IL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **AHARON, Leor**
[IL/IL]; 67 Ahad Ha'am St., 65207 Tel Aviv (IL). **COHEN,**
Cfir [IL/IL]; 8 Haharuv St., 38900 Ceasarea (IL).

(74) Agent: **FRIEDMAN, Mark**; 7 Jabotinsky St., 52520 Ra-
mat Gan (IL).

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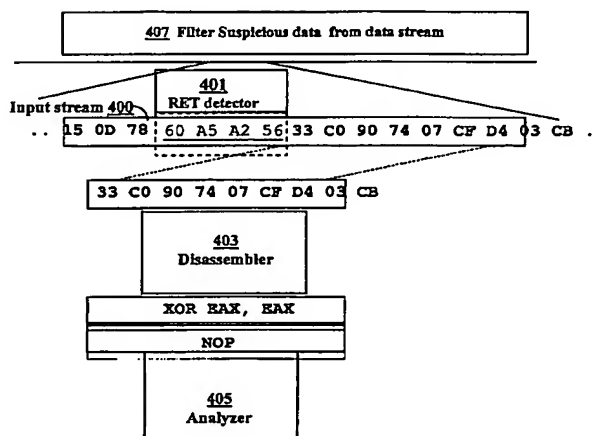
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(54) Title: UNIVERSAL WORM CATCHER

Buffer Overflow Protection



(57) Abstract: A method for detecting malicious code in a stream of data traffic input to a gateway in a data network by monitoring for suspicious data in the stream of data traffic. Upon detecting the suspicious data, an attempt is made to disassemble the suspicious data and a threat weight is assigned for each instruction. The attempt to disassemble is initiated at initial instructions each with a different offset within the suspicious portion of data. The threat weights are accumulated respectively for each branch option in the disassembled code, producing respectively an accumulated threat weight for each branch option. When the accumulated threat weight exceeds a previously defined threshold level, an alert is generated and/or traffic is blocked from the source of the malicious code.

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